Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 031211-069

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	
	)	
Walter KRAFT	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
Filed: February 8, 2002	)	
	)	
For: LOCAL DIGITAL IMAGE PROPERTY CONTROL WITH MASKS	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

7. (Amended) Process according to claim 5, wherein one of the at least two image properties is the color saturation and the other image property is the brightness, and the changes of the color saturation are carried out as a function of the brightness and/or as a function of the brightness correction.

8. (Amended) Process according to claim 5, wherein one of the at least two image properties is selected from a first group consisting of the brightness and the contrast and

the other image property is selected from a second group consisting of at least one of the color tone and the color saturation; and the changes to the properties in the first group are carried out as a function of the properties in the second group.

13. (Amended) Process according to claim 11, wherein the at least one image property is brightness and/or color tone and/or color saturation and/or color values and the target frequency distribution is such that each value of the image property is at least approximately equally frequent at least within a predefined value range or within predefined value ranges.

22. (Amended) Photographic image reproducing installation selected from the group of a photographic printer, a photographic lab, a minilab, comprising an apparatus for the location dependent correction of photographic image data representing a photographic image with a multitude of image elements, whereby the image data determine color values and at least one image property for the image elements, the apparatus comprising,

a) a correction mask determination unit, which determines from the photographic image data to be corrected a correction mask with a multitude of correction elements, whereby the correction elements are assigned to the image elements and determine correction changes for the image data corresponding to the image elements, the correction changes corresponding to changes of the at least one image property; and

b) an application unit which applies the correction mask onto the image data, whereby the image data are changed by data processing according to the correction elements.

23. (Amended) Photographic image reproducing installation selected from the group of a photographic printer, a photographic lab, a minilab, comprising a control device which carries out for the location dependent correction of photographic image data which represent a photographic image with a multitude of image elements, comprising the steps of:

a) determining a correction mask with a multitude of correction elements based on the photographic image data to be corrected, whereby the correction elements are assigned to the image elements and, for the image data corresponding to the image elements, define correction changes which correspond to changes to at least one image property; and

b) applying the correction mask to the image data, whereby the image data are changed according to the correction elements.

24. (Amended) Photographic image reproducing installation selected from the group of a photographic printer, a photographic lab, a minilab, comprising a computer on which a program is loaded for performing a process for the location dependent correction of photographic image data which represent a photographic image with a multitude of image elements, comprising the steps of:

a) determining a correction mask with a multitude of correction elements based on the photographic image data to be corrected, whereby the correction elements are assigned to the image elements and, for the image data corresponding to the image elements, define correction changes which correspond to changes to at least one image property; and

b) applying the correction mask to the image data, whereby the image data are changed according to the correction elements.

Please amend the claims as follows:

25. (NEW) Process according to claim 6, wherein one of the at least two image properties is the color saturation and the other image property is the brightness, and the changes of the color saturation are carried out as a function of the brightness and/or as a function of the brightness correction.

26. (NEW) Process according to claim 6, wherein one of the at least two image properties is selected from a first group consisting of the brightness and the contrast and the other image property is selected from a second group consisting of at least one of the color tone and the color saturation; and the changes to the properties in the first group are carried out as a function of the properties in the second group.

27. (NEW) Process according to claim 12, wherein the at least one image property is brightness and/or color tone and/or color saturation and/or color values and the target frequency distribution is such that each value of the image property is at least approximately equally frequent at least within a predefined value range or within predefined value ranges.

REMARKS

The above amendments are made to place the application into better condition for examination. Favorable consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: _____
Patrick C. Keane
Registration No. 32,858

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: February 8, 2002

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated February 8, 2002

Marked-up Claims

7. (Amended) Process according to claim 5 [or 6], wherein one of the at least two image properties is the color saturation and the other image property is the brightness, and the changes of the color saturation are carried out as a function of the brightness and/or as a function of the brightness correction.

8. (Amended) Process according to claim 5 [or 6], wherein one of the at least two image properties is selected from a first group consisting of the brightness and the contrast and the other image property is selected from a second group consisting of at least one of the color tone and the color saturation; and the changes to the properties in the first group are carried out as a function of the properties in the second group.

13. (Amended) Process according to claim 11 [or 12], wherein the at least one image property is brightness and/or color tone and/or color saturation and/or color values and the target frequency distribution is such that each value of the image property is at least approximately equally frequent at least within a predefined value range or within predefined value ranges.

22. (Amended) Photographic image reproducing installation selected from the group of a photographic printer, a photographic lab, a minilab, comprising an apparatus

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated February 8, 2002

Marked-up Claims

[according to claim 19] for the location dependent correction of photographic image data representing a photographic image with a multitude of image elements, whereby the image data determine color values and at least one image property for the image elements, the apparatus comprising,

a) a correction mask determination unit, which determines from the photographic image data to be corrected a correction mask with a multitude of correction elements, whereby the correction elements are assigned to the image elements and determine correction changes for the image data corresponding to the image elements, the correction changes corresponding to changes of the at least one image property; and

b) an application unit which applies the correction mask onto the image data, whereby the image data are changed by data processing according to the correction elements.

23. Photographic image reproducing installation selected from the group of a photographic printer, a photographic lab, a minilab, comprising a control device which carries out [the process according to claim 1] for the location dependent correction of photographic image data which represent a photographic image with a multitude of image elements, comprising the steps of:

a) determining a correction mask with a multitude of correction elements based on the photographic image data to be corrected, whereby the correction elements are

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated February 8, 2002

Marked-up Claims

assigned to the image elements and, for the image data corresponding to the image elements, define correction changes which correspond to changes to at least one image property; and

b) applying the correction mask to the image data, whereby the image data are changed according to the correction elements.

24. Photographic image reproducing installation selected from the group of a photographic printer, a photographic lab, a minilab, comprising a computer on which [the] a program [according to claim 20] is loaded for performing a process for the location dependent correction of photographic image data which represent a photographic image with a multitude of image elements, comprising the steps of:

a) determining a correction mask with a multitude of correction elements based on the photographic image data to be corrected, whereby the correction elements are assigned to the image elements and, for the image data corresponding to the image elements, define correction changes which correspond to changes to at least one image property; and

b) applying the correction mask to the image data, whereby the image data are changed according to the correction elements.